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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE GARDEN CALENDAR

A radio talk by Mr. W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through Station WRC and 35 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, March 18, 1930.

Last week during the Garden Calendar period, I stressed the importance of the home fruit and vegetable garden as one means of maintaining the net income of the farm. It seems that some of the Farm and Home Hour audience took for granted that my remarks were addressed to cotton growers alone, but I assure you that the principle of producing the greater part of the farm family living at home applies to all sections and all classes of farming.

Today I desire to call your attention to certain new varieties and special vegetables that have but recently come into prominence. I refer especially to disease-resistant strains and varieties which can be grown successfully under conditions of local infestation where the common varieties usually fail.

Permit me to again emphasize the importance of cleaning up the garden, removing all insect and disease-harboring trash, and fertilizing the soil to insure the growth of the crops. In view of the fact that the yield of crops on the limited garden space is so great, one is justified in making the soil extremely rich and preparing it most thoroughly.

It is seldom that a variety of any fruit or vegetable is adapted to growing in all parts of the country. The "Marglobe" tomato - a new wilt-resistant variety - seems to be an exception to this rule, and has proved its supremacy both as a home garden and market tomato in every section where it has been tried.

Another exception is the Mary Washington rust-resistant asparagus, which appears to be superior to the old-time varieties in all asparagus regions. There are sections of the country, however, where due to seasonal conditions, asparagus does not thrive.

The development of the Wisconsin strain of Ballhead or Hollander type of cabbage has made possible the growing of cabbage on land where the disease known as "yellows" renders the production of the ordinary varieties of cabbage practically impossible. This strain or a similar strain developed by Dr. C. E. Myers of the Pennsylvania State College should be planted wherever difficulty is experienced in growing cabbage on account of the "yellows" disease. These varieties, however, are primarily for the northern or late cabbage districts. Yellows-resistant strains of early cabbage are being developed for use in all sections.

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At one time field corn was our main dependence for roasting ears. Gradually more toothsome and sweet varieties were developed, including Golden Bantam. Since then our standards of quality in sweet corn have advanced about 100 per cent. Other improved varieties of delicious yellow or golden sweet corn have been introduced, and today we have ten or more kinds of this general type of sweet corn to choose from. While all of this has been going on the growers of the white varieties of sweet corn have seen to it that their strains have been improved so that we now have a range of varieties that will cover the entire season from early summer until the frost is on the pumpkin, and I might add, until the fodder is in the shock, because last fall I ate splendid roasting ears from shocks of sweet corn which had been cut before the fodder was killed by frost.

There is another comparatively new vegetable that I want to mention. It is the Italian or sprouting brocolli. True-heading brocolli, such as is grown on the Pacific Coast, reaches our markets as cauliflower, in fact; it is a long-season cauliflower, making a white head like cauliflower. The Italian sprouting type of brocolli that I refer to, and which has been recently introduced into this country, develops a head on the main stalk similar to a small head of cauliflower, but is green in color. After this central head is cut; smaller heads will develop from the axils or pockets of the leaves. These in turn may be cut for use and the plants will again form heads, usually smaller ones than those of the former cutting. There are several strains of this Italian or sprouting brocolli being offered, but the one known as Glory of Calabria is the most desirable. The seed is similar to cauliflower seed, and the plants can be grown either as an early spring or a fall crop. It will not stand hot weather, so if grown in the spring, the seed should be sown indoors like cauliflower or early cabbage and transplanted to the garden as early as possible. For a fall crop the plants should be handled the same as late cabbage. In the South, Italian brocolli can be grown as a late fall and early winter crop, in fact, in many sections it will produce heads or sprouts the entire winter. The heads and their thickened stems are boiled and served as greens.

Among the promising new small fruits are the Van Fleet raspberry which does well in many parts of the south where the ordinary varieties of raspberry fail. The Youngberry or Young Dewberry is another addition to the list of small fruits for the Southern States, also for parts of the Pacific Coast where the climate is mild. The new Blakemore strawberry has proved its great value as a canning and preserving berry in several sections of the south and is now being tried out in other parts of the country.

If time permitted, I would like to dwell upon the growing of New Zealand spinach and Swiss chard as summer greens, of mustard as an early spring greens, of escarole, fennel, endive, romaine or cos lettuce, turnip rooted parsley, Chinese radishes, and a number of other little known garden crops that most of you could very profitably add to your gardens. We hope in the near future to have a bulletin which will discuss all of these crops, but in the meantime we have some other good Farmers' Bulletins dealing with the home fruit and vegetable garden which we will gladly send you upon request.

Early Spring Spraying for Scale Insects

Most scale insects require rather strong spray materials and thorough application of these materials for satisfactory control work. The materials used can be more safely applied when there are no tender parts of the plant to injure. The application can be most thorough when there are no leaves to interfere with the spray. For these reasons, recommendations for scale control usually include advice to treat the infested plants in the late fall, winter or early spring before new growth begins. It would be wise for you to look over your trees and shrubs for the presence of scale insects. If they are found, spray the plants thoroughly with a dormant-strength miscible oil or a lime-sulphur mixture before new growth starts for the coming year. Many reliable brands of these spray materials are on the market and they should be used according to the manufacturer's directions.

